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3 things you need to know

LANDER MAKES RISKY TOUCH DOWN ON MARS

The search for life on Mars took a giant leap on Wednesday when a space lander touched down on the red planet in Europe's first attempt to land a craft there since the Beagle 2's "heroic failure" more than a decade ago. The disc-shaped 1,272-pound Schiaparelli lander, which is testing technologies for a rover due to follow in 2020, landed on Mars after a risky descent, but scientists are still waiting to find out what shape it is in. During the six-minute descent to the surface, it used a parachute and thrusters to slow from a speed of nearly 21,000 mph to 13,000 mph "We have to wait a to see what happens with the test lander. But this is already a success so far," European Space Agency Director General Jan Woerner said at ESA's Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, Germany. The lander is named for Giovanni Schiaparelli, the Italian astronomer who in 1877 began mapping the topography of Mars, extending study of what are now known as the planet's canals, a mistranslation of the Italian word canali, or channels. REUTERS

US GOVERNMENT SEES 1M MORE PEOPLE ON OBAMACARE EXCHANGES IN 2017

2 The U.S. Health and Human Services Department estimates that one million more people will sign up for health insurance on the Obamacare exchanges for 2017 compared with 2016, a department official said. President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, often called Obamacare, created online exchanges where consumers can shop for individual health insurance and receive income-based subsidies. The exchanges opened in 2014 with insurance for sale by major companies including Aetna Inc. and Anthem Inc. But enrollment has been about half of what was initially expected and some large insurers this year have said they were losing too much money on the exchanges because of that and the fact that enrollees are older and sicker than expected. Aetna and United Health Group have largely pulled out of the exchanges for 2017.

REUTERS

FACEBOOK ADDS FOOD ORDERING FEATURE

3 Facebook said users in the United States would be able to order food through the Facebook pages of restaurants starting on Wednesday as part of its efforts to connect users and businesses. Users will also be able to get quotes from businesses, buy movie tickets and book appointments at spas and salons, Facebook said in a blog post. Earlier this month, Facebook launched "Marketplace," a platform that allows people to buy and sell items locally. Facebook, which has about 1.7 billion monthly active users, also said it would add a "recommendations" feature that will allow users to share recommendations on such things as places to eat. Facebook shares were up 0.8 percent at $129.58 in early trading. Shares of GrubHub, which offers a food-ordering service similar to that announced by Facebook, were down 2.4 percent at $41.07. REUTERS

METRO'S NEWS QUIZ

You read Metro to stay on top of the news. Now's your chance to find out how much you know. Take our daily news quiz to test your knowledge by going to **www.metro.us/news-quiz** to submit your answers.

1. Why have classes at 14 state universities been suspended?

2. The Flyers have been outscored 5-1 in what period?

3. Where does Dakota Fanning go to school?

Donald Trump speaks as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton looks on during the third U.S. presidential debate at the Thomas & Mack Center on Thursday in Las Vegas, Nevada. GETTY IMAGES

Candidates trade shots in final debate

The debate was seen as a must-win for Trump.

GARY KANE & KIMBERLY AQUILINA
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Americans who were expecting a rumble in the desert might have been initially disappointed with the calm that possessed Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on Wednesday night.

The third and final debate of the 2016 presidential election got off to a chilly start as both candidates forewent a handshake, walking behind their respective podiums. That calm lasted about 30 minutes.

Clinton said Trump "choked" during his August visit with former Mexican President Vicente Fox and then started a "Twitter war" after Fox tweeted that Mexico would not pay for the wall.

Trump, who resurrected talk of a wall between the United States and Mexico, claimed that Clinton supported the wall in 2006, which she denied.

After debate moderator Chris Wallace questioned Clinton about a speech she was paid $225,000 to make to a Brazilian bank — information obtained by WikiLeaks — Clinton harshly criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russia's alleged hand in the email hack. She called for Trump to condemn Russian espionage.

"I don't know Putin," Trump said. "He said nice things about me," adding later, "This is not my best friend."

After Trump said Putin does not respect Clinton, she rebutted, "Well, that's because he'd rather have a puppet."

"No you're the puppet," Trump retorted.

After prodding by Wallace, Trump said he condemns foreign interference in an American election by "Russia or by anybody else."

Wallace also asked both candidates about possible appointments to the Supreme Court who could influence the country for the next 25 years.

While Clinton said the court "needs to stand on the side of the American people," Trump said specifically that his nominees will be pro-life, conservative, supporters of the second amendment and "scholars in all cases and people of tremendous respect."

> *"I don't know Putin. ... He said nice things about me."*
> Trump

Wallace asked Clinton and Trump to take a clear stance on hot-button issues. Clinton declared that she will defend Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood, Trump said that under Roe v. Wade, doctors have the right to rip a fetus out of a uterus "right before delivery."

"The government has no business with the decisions women make with their families ..." Clinton stated.

"And honestly, no one has the right to do what I just said," Trump replied.

Immigration, the Supreme Court and the economy were among the few designated talking points for the debate. However, no one expected the candidates to focus completely on policy issues.

Trump's campaign continues to reel from the release of the 2005 video of Trump making lewd comments about woman and what many perceived as bragging about sexual assault.

Trump's dismissal of his vulgar comments as "locker room talk" drew widespread criticism. His assertion that he never made unwanted sexual advances toward any women prompted a few to publicly accuse him of doing just that. Trump denounced the accusers as "liars."

Trump has scrambled to deflect attention from the video and the accusers. His campaign continued to remind voters about Clinton's email scandal, and WikiLeaks recently provided Trump supporters additional ammunition. The hacked emails include transcripts of three speeches Clinton delivered at Goldman Sachs functions that Trump backers say show she is being hypocritical about calling for stricter regulations of Wall Street.

Still, the Trump campaign has had to weather other storms generated by the candidate's recent comments.

Trump's continuous charges that the election is "rigged" and marred by "large-scale voter fraud" has drawn nothing by derision by the news media, election officials, Democrats and even members of his own party.

The National Association of Secretaries of State, whose membership includes officials from both parties, issued a news release stating that it "cannot allow unsubstantiated claims calling into question the systemic integrity of the election process to shake voter confidence or disrupt voting in the run-up to Election Day."

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BRIEFS

Uber and Lyft inch closer to full legalization in Philadelphia
The long slog to legalize Uber and Lyft in Philadelphia took a big step forward when state legislators passed a bill Wednesday that would legalize the popular taxi apps.

The state House of Representatives passed the legislation, Philly state Rep. Jordan Harris announced on Twitter.

The bill includes a 1.4 percent tax on the apps. The tax revenue would go to the Philadelphia Parking Authority, which will keep one-third and distribute the rest to the School District of Philadelphia, the Billy Penn website reported. During the almost 90-day grace period when the apps were temporarily legalized, the apps collectively netted $350,000 in taxes for the School District, PlanPhilly reported.

The bill will now head to the state Senate for a vote. The Senate passed an earlier version of the same bill this spring so no hurdles are foreseen there. Gov. Tom Wolf is expected to sign the bill.

Uber and Lyft have made millions in Philadelphia and turned the traditional taxi cab business on its head, even though they are not technically regulated by the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA).

The services have been operating in the state's other 66 counties under a temporary two-year license from the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission.

The unusual regulatory situation has left the apps, their drivers and their customers in ongoing legal limbo — like when a Philly judge ordered them to cease all operations in the city due the fact that they are not technically legal in the city.

While the PPA did impound a few Uber drivers' vehicles when UberX launched in Philly in October 2014, no other enforcement actions were ever taken against either Uber or Lyft. SAM NEWHOUSE

Rittenhouse Square Park GETTY IMAGES

Residents fearful after evening shooting in iconic Philly park

Some Rittenhouse Square residents said they will now avoid walking through the park at night.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The day after a would-be robber in Rittenhouse Square shot a good Samaritan who intervened, the Philadelphia park was crowded as usual with dog-walkers, yoga practitioners, and office workers getting their lunch.

But Tuesday night's shooting in one of the city's most upscale neighborhoods certainly sparked residents' fears of returning to the park after dark.

"I walk through this square all the time, day and night. Now I won't be able to," said Marian Robinson, who lives in the area. "I'll always be thinking, 'Is it safe?' It's awful to have to think that way."

Others echoed the sentiment and said they won't go through the park at night.

"I'm horrified," said Larry Lagar, 68, who lives near the park. "It's scary. It makes you not want to go out at night."

The 39-year-old good Samaritan was biking through the park when he saw the suspect attempting to rob two other individuals and pulled over and tried to stop the robbery.

Instead, one would-be robber turned a gun on the man, firing multiple times and striking him in the right shoulder and stomach area. He then fled without taking anything.

The wounded man was taken to Hahnemann Hospital, where he was said to be in critical condition.

Police said Wednesday that they had identified a 17-year-old suspect as the shooter, but didn't find him after executing a search warrant at his home that day. The investigation is ongoing.

The gunshots could be heard by diners at the sidewalk cafes in the area and sparked a minor stampede as people inside the park fled the scene. Police on patrol nearby responded to the scene.

"The guy on the bike was really brave. I wouldn't have done it," said Brian Marshall, 52.

While shootings are a regular occurrence in Philadelphia, they don't often happen in Center City or Rittenhouse Square and the tony neighborhood that surrounds it.

"A shooting is a shooting whatever neighborhood it happens in, but it is surprising that it happened here," Marshall said.

Marylou Blatteau, 72, who lives in a Rittenhouse condo, said she was "flabbergasted" by the brazenness of the crime.

"It was a beautiful night. I just can't believe imagine that anybody thought they could get away with that with so many people out," she said.

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Profs walk off jobs at state universities, suspending classes for thousands of students

Contract negotiations bogged down and instructors walked picket lines on campuses statewide.

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Instructors at 14 state universities walked off their jobs Wednesday in a mid-semester contract dispute, disrupting classes for more than 100,000 students.

The strike is the first in the 34-year history of the university system.

Just after 5 a.m., faculty members formed picket lines on campuses statewide and at the Dixon University Center, the system's headquarters, in Harrisburg.

Months of negotiations between the faculty union, the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF), and the State System of Higher Education (PSSHE) hit an impasse, the union announced on Twitter.

Talks over salary, health care and retirement fell apart when the union turned down the state system's final offer Tuesday, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The strike affects classes at Bloomsburg, Cheyney, Clarion, California, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Millersville, Mansfield, Slippery Rock, Shippensburg and West Chester.

The Inquirer estimated more than 25,000 students in the state system are from Philadelphia and its surrounding counties.

"We'd like to reassure our students that we did everything we possibly could to avoid a strike. We will be here should the State System decide not to abandon its students," Jamie Martin, vice president of the APSCUF, said in a news release.

Faculty have said they are taking issue with a greater workload without a corresponding salary increase, an elimination of retirement benefits for those new to the union and increases in health-care costs.

The state's health-care proposal would go from 15 percent of the premium to 18 percent; faculty would deal with new deductibles and higher prescription drug co-payments, according to the Inquirer.

Kenn Marshall, spokesman for the PSSHE, told the Inky that union faculty refused their salary and health-care offers, which are identical to that of other system employees.

"We don't understand how APSCUF can argue that faculty members should be entitled to a better health-care plan than our other employees," he said.

Meanwhile, Gov. Tom Wolf urged both sides to quickly reach a compromise.

"Avoiding a strike is paramount because a work stoppage will be devastating for the state system," Wolf said Wednesday in a news release. "Most seriously, a strike could drive a loss of students, which would further exacerbate an already precarious financial situation for the state system. We have to look no further than what happened to Temple University following the faculty strike in 1990. It took years for Temple to recover its student population."

Sixteen years ago, Temple faculty staged a 29-day strike that resulted in $6.3 million in losses to the university, including $4 million in tuition from students who had withdrawn. The strike came to an end because of a court order.

BRIEFS

Cabbie stabbed multiple times in brutal West Philly attack

Philadelphia police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect who brutally attacked a taxi driver Sunday afternoon.

The cabbie, an employee with All Threes Taxi company, picked up a male passenger who went by the name "James" at around 12:15 p.m. in the Mill Creek section of the city. Upon arriving at the passenger's destination, the 5800 block of Race Street, "James" seized the driver from the back seat.

As the driver struggled to break free, the passenger pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim multiple times in the back, police said. A struggle ensued, as the driver turned in his seat and swung at the suspect several times, grabbing at his clothing and hitting his head.

The suspect exited the vehicle and fled north on 58th Street.

The taxi driver was transported to Presbyterian Trauma Center for several lacerations, police said.

The suspect is described as a bearded man, about 20 years old, short with a thin build and wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and light pants at the time of the attack.

The PPD is asking anyone with information regarding the suspect to contact the Southwest Detective Division at 215-686-3183/3184. Tips can also be submitted via text to 773847 (PPDTIP) or online through an electronic form. All tips will remain confidential.

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BRIEF

Study: Hockey fans pay higher rents to live near NHL arenas

Hockey fans are notorious die-hards, so it wouldn't be surprising if some want to live as close as possible to their favorite team's home ice.

While their passion might be admirable, it can also be costly as rents near sports venues can be nearly 70 percent higher than a city's average, a new study from RENTCafé found.

Boston Bruins fans can expect to pay 9 percent more in rent than the typical city resident to live near TD Gardens, while New Yorkers can expect to pay 7 percent more to be an Islanders neighbor near Brooklyn's Barclays Center and 5 percent more to be near the Rangers and Madison Square Garden.

Philadelphia Flyers fans living near the Wells Fargo Center, however, actually pay $7 less than the average Philly rent.

Surprisingly, the most expensive jump in rent near NHL arenas isn't in pricey real estate cities like New York or Los Angeles—that distinction goes to Columbus, Ohio.

Home of the Blue Jackets, the average rent near Nationwide Arena is $1,354. Compared to the Columbus' average rent of $803, that's a 69 percent difference.

Rounding out the top 3: Nashville Predators fans living near Bridgestone Arena pay 66 percent more rent than the average and Tampa Bay Lightning fans can expect to pay 65 percent more in rent to live by the Amalie Arena.

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Michael Drewniak, former press secretary for Gov. Christie GETTY IMAGES

Ex-spokesman testifies he warned Christie on Bridgegate

The lane-closure scheme prompted massive gridlock in Fort Lee to punishment the town's Democratic mayor for refusing to endorse Christie's re-election campaign that year, according to prosecutors.

Testimony on Wednesday by Chris Christie's former press secretary added to mounting evidence that the New Jersey governor knew earlier than he has acknowledged that key members of his staff were involved in the "Bridgegate" plot to create traffic gridlock as political payback.

Michael Drewniak, testifying in the conspiracy trial of a Christie aide and a Christie political ally, told jurors about a dinner he had on Dec. 4, 2013, with David Wildstein, the alleged mastermind of the lane closures at the busy George Washington Bridge in September of that year.

Drewniak testified that Wildstein told him that Christie's deputy chief of staff, Bridget Kelly, and his campaign manager, Bill Stepien, were aware of the lane closures while they were occurring, and so was Christie.

The next day, Drewniak said, he met with the Republican governor and his chief of staff, Kevin O'Dowd, and relayed Wildstein's assertions.

Christie held a news conference eight days later to insist that no member of his senior staff had been aware of the closures. Christie has said he learned of Kelly's possible involvement in January 2014, when emails discussing the scheme became public.

The lane-closure scheme prompted massive gridlock in Fort Lee to punishment the town's Democratic mayor for refusing to endorse Christie's re-election campaign that year, according to prosecutors.

Drewniak was the first witness called in federal court in Newark by Kelly, who is on trial alongside former Port Authority of New York and New Jersey executive Bill Baroni for their alleged roles in the conspiracy.

Christie, who has denied knowledge of the scheme, has not been charged with any crime. The scandal's fallout, however, damaged his unsuccessful bid for the Republican presidential nomination. Christie is now advising Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. REUTERS

NC offers reward in arson at local Republican office

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory GETTY IMAGES

Evidence from the crime scene is being analyzed at the FBI's laboratory in Quantico, Virginia.

North Carolina will pay up to $5,000 for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the weekend arson and graffiti attack at a local Republican Party headquarters, the state's governor said on Wednesday.

Local, state and federal investigators are searching for suspects after they said a device commonly described as a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window of the Orange County Republican Party headquarters in Hillsborough on Sunday.

The glass bottle containing a flammable liquid ignited inside the strip-mall office, burning furniture and campaign signs before extinguishing. A swastika and the message "Nazi Republicans leave town or else" were spray-painted on a nearby building.

"I'm going to do everything I can to find the individual or individuals who committed this assault on our democracy."

Governor Pat McCror

"The firebombing of a local political headquarters was clearly an act of intimidation, and I'm going to do everything I can to find the individual or individuals who committed this assault on our democracy," Republican Gov. Pat McCrory said in a statement announcing the reward money.

Investigators on Tuesday collected video from locations around the party office, according to a statement from Hillsborough, a town of about 6,400 people located 40 miles from the state capital of Raleigh.

Mike Pence, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's running mate, called the incident an "attack on the American political system" during a visit to the scene Tuesday afternoon.

Pence urged voters to help provide accountability at polling places when Americans turn out for the Nov. 8 election.

However, Pence's remarks were well short of allegations by Trump in recent days that the race is being rigged against him at voting locations. Trump has provided no evidence for such assertions.

North Carolina's State Board of Elections said in a statement later on Tuesday that officials had taken steps to protect the safety of voters, observers and poll workers during the voting process. Early voting begins in the state on Thursday. REUTERS

BRIEF

White House plans community-based prevention of violent ideologies

A White House plan aims to convene teachers and mental health professionals to intervene and help prevent Americans from turning to violent ideologies, work that is currently done mostly by federal law enforcement.

The 18-page plan announced on Wednesday and first reported by Reuters, marks the first time in five years that the Obama administration has updated its policy for preventing the spread of violent groups such as Islamic State, which controls parts of Syria and Iraq and recruits fighters worldwide.

Authorities blamed radical and violent ideologies as the motives for attacks in Charleston, South Carolina; San Bernardino, California; Orlando, Florida; New York and New Jersey in 2015-16.

The policy aims to prevent conversions to all violent ideologies, including the white supremacist beliefs held by a gunman who killed nine black church members inside a historic African-American church in Charleston and the other shootings and bombs were inspired by Islamist militants. Critics said, however, that such efforts largely target Muslims.

In approximately 60 to 70 percent of the cases the federal government has prosecuted for terrorism or supporting terrorism, a family member or friend said they noticed the defendant was exhibiting strange behavior before they came to the attention of law enforcement, said Seamus Hughes, deputy director of George Washington University's Program on Extremism.

The new White House strategy seeks to create "intervention teams" led by mental health professionals, faith-based groups, educators and others as a resource for people who find themselves in such circumstances. REUTERS

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US health officials create color-coded Zika zones in Florida

The new system, announced by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, casts all of Miami-Dade County as a yellow cautionary area with the exception of Miami Beach and a 1-square-mile area of Miami known as the Little River neighborhood, which are high-risk red zones.

Miami, Florida GETTY IMAGES

U.S. health officials introduced a new color-coding system on Tuesday for Florida's Miami-Dade County to distinguish between areas of active transmission that present a significant risk of transmission and areas where there is a possible risk of being infected.

Previously, the CDC had warned pregnant women to consider avoiding non-essential travel to Miami-Dade County to reduce their risk infection with Zika, a mosquito-borne virus that has been linked with severe birth defects.

"Zika continues to pose a threat to pregnant women living in or traveling to Miami-Dade County," said Dr. Lyle Petersen, director of CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases.

"Our guidance today strengthens our travel advice and testing recommendations for pregnant women to further prevent the spread of the infection among those most vulnerable."

Based on the new guidelines, the CDC said it recommends pregnant women consider postponing travel to yellow areas of Miami-Dade County, and they should specifically avoid red areas because they pose "a significant risk to pregnant women."

The CDC urged pregnant women who have lived in, traveled to, or had unprotected sex with someone who lived in or traveled to Miami-Dade County since Aug. 1, 2016, to be tested for Zika. REUTERS

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Source: Google signs CBS, in talks with others on web TV

Alphabet Inc. unit Google has reached an agreement with CBS Corp. to carry the network on its planned web TV service and is in advanced talks with 21st Century Fox and Viacom Inc. to distribute its channels, three sources told Reuters on Wednesday.

The service, which will be part of Google's YouTube Platform, is expected to launch in the first quarter and will include all of CBS' content, including live NFL games, one of the sources said.

Google's so-called "skinny bundle," with fewer channels than a typical cable subscription, will cost $30 to $40 a month, the source said. It was unclear which Fox and Viacom networks would be part of the

Google GETTY IMAGES

Google service, two of the sources said.

The sources requested anonymity because the discussions are confidential. A spokesperson for YouTube declined to comment.

Google will be launching into an increasingly crowded market. Dish Network Corp. and Sony Corp., which in the past year have launched skinny bundles to appeal to younger viewers who do not want to pay for cable.

And both AT&T Inc. and Hulu, the online video service owned by Disney, Fox, Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Inc., have streaming television offerings that are expected to go live in the next few months.

The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the news, said Google was also in advanced talks with Walt Disney Co.

A representative at Disney was not immediately available for comment. CBS, Viacom and Fox declined to comment.

Google has been talking to media companies about its web TV for years, but its plans have just ramped up over the past few months, one of the sources said. Apple Inc. had looked at a similar service but has shelved that plan for the time being, sources had previously told Reuters. REUTERS

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Colombian drug trafficker 'Valenciano' gets 20 years in US prison

Maximiliano Bonilla-Orozco, also known as "Valenciano," was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Sandra Townes in Brooklyn, nearly five years after he was captured in Venezuela, prosecutors said.

Packages of cocaine GETTY IMAGES

A Colombian drug trafficker who the U.S. government says was the ringleader of an extensive network that shipped thousands of kilograms of cocaine to the United States was sentenced on Wednesday to 20 years in prison.

According to U.S. authorities, Maximiliano Bonilla-Orozco, 44, led an extensive narcotics exportation and transportation organization that distributed thousands of kilograms of cocaine from Colombia through Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico to the United States.

He received the cocaine from various sources in Colombia, including the rebel group Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional, and dealt frequently with the Zetas drug cartel in Mexico, authorities said.

According to the U.S. State Department, Bonilla-Orozco was linked to the transportation of more than $25 million in drug-related proceeds from the United States to Mexico.

He was indicted in 2008, and secretly pleaded guilty that year while agreeing to cooperate with U.S. authorities, according to court records.

But in 2009, Townes issued a bench warrant for Bonilla-Orozco after prosecutors revealed that his cooperation had not been fruitful and that his U.S. lawyer had lost contact with the Colombian.

he U.S. State Department listed Bonilla-Orozco among its most-wanted drug traffickers in Colombia and the government offered a $5 million reward for information leading to his arrest. He was captured in Venezuela in November 2011. REUTERS

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NATO diplomat: Major Russian naval deployment to intensify Aleppo assault

Russian warships off the coast of Norway are carrying fighter bombers that are likely to reinforce a final assault on the besieged Syrian city of Aleppo in two weeks, a senior NATO diplomat said on Wednesday, citing Western intelligence.

The fleet passed by the Norwegian city of Bergen on Wednesday, the diplomat said, while Russian media has said it will move through the English Channel, past Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean Sea to the Syrian coast.

"They are deploying all of the Northern fleet and much of the Baltic fleet in the largest surface deployment since the end of the Cold War," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

"This is not a friendly port call. In two weeks, we will see a crescendo of air attacks on Aleppo as part of Russia's strategy to declare victory there," the diplomat said.

Photos of the vessels have been released by the Norwegian military, taken on Monday. A Norwegian newspaper quoted the head of the Norwegian military intelligence service saying the ships involved "will probably play a role in the deciding battle for Aleppo."

Russia, which supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with an air campaign against the Western rebels in the devastated eastern part of Aleppo, has said the deployment will target Islamic State militants in Syria.

But the NATO diplomat said the additional military firepower was designed to drive out or destroy the 8,000 rebels in Aleppo, the only large city still in opposition hands, and allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to start a withdrawal.

An intensified air campaign in eastern Aleppo, where 275,000 people are trapped, would further worsen ties between Moscow and the West, which says the Kremlin may be responsible for war crimes. REUTERS

A Russian sailor stands on Russian warship. GETTY IMAGES

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BRIEF

Fed: US economy shows hints of broadening wage pressures

The U.S. economy showed some signs of rising wage pressures in September and early October but overall compensation growth remained modest, the Federal Reserve said on Wednesday, a further sign of the cloudy outlook facing Fed policymakers as they mull a rise in interest rates.

"Wage growth held fairly steady at modest levels, although some districts reported rising pressure for certain sectors," the Fed said in its Beige Book report of anecdotal information collected from business contacts nationwide.

The U.S. central bank also said that most districts reported a modest or moderate pace of economic expansion and consumer spending was mixed.

Policymakers have been keenly watching for signs of increasing wage pressures spurred by an unemployment rate that now stands at 5.0 percent.

After its policy meeting in September, the Fed indicated it would likely raise its benchmark interest rate by the end of the year providing employment and inflation continue to strengthen.

Inflation has been stubbornly slow to rise. In its report, the Fed noted that overall price growth remained mild, despite tight labor market conditions across most districts.

However, the Philadelphia, St. Louis and San Francisco regional Feds said their districts were experiencing wage pressures due to a shortage of available workers.

In the Boston district, "the competitive labor market also caused retail and tourism contacts ... to raise wages" while employers in New York were "increasingly willing to negotiate compensation."

The San Francisco Fed said some small business owners also reported the need to reinstate dropped health care benefits in order to attract job-seekers.

The Boston Fed said contacts in several sectors cited uncertainty surrounding the upcoming presidential election as a reason for delaying some business decisions. REUTERS

Apparent fake filing says artist bought $88 billion of Bank of America stock

Bank of America signage pictured on its building in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

In the latest apparent spoof on a securities regulator's online filing system, a Chicago-area artist with a fondness for inspirational quotes claimed to have acquired about $88 billion worth of Bank of America Corp. shares on Wednesday.

The filing did not appear to influence the stock price of the second-largest U.S. bank, which joins companies including Avon Products Inc., Integrated Device Technology Inc. and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. to have had fake filings attached to their ticker symbols on the Securities and Exchange Commission's Edgar system.

While the SEC did not respond to a request for comment and Bank of America declined to comment, securities experts said there was no doubt the filing was a hoax.

In it, a company called YNOFACE Holdings Inc. purportedly run by Antonio Lee said it had acquired 798.4 million Bank of America shares in an exchange on Aug. 15, and purchased another 4.2 billion common shares and 100 million preferred shares on Sept. 22.

The common shares alone would represent nearly half the bank's total market cap. Bank of America's largest shareholder, The Vanguard Group, has roughly 610 million shares, a stake of less than 6 percent.

In an earlier filing, YNOFACE said it had implausibly raised over $1 trillion for an art fund.

A quick Google search for Lee found several promotional sites describing him as a "world renowned artist, and YouTube celebrity specializing in acrylic painting."

A YouTube account characterizes YNOFACE as a company that "acquires, markets, and holds original art as a capital appreciation investment based off the fundamental metrics."

Lee's Twitter posts showcase colorful paintings of a beach, elephants in love and a naked person with a bird's head, along with quotes like, "When an artist follows their intuition & dreams, society can only benefit." Its avatar is a painting of a man with a big red question mark over his face.

Reuters' attempts to reach Lee were unsuccessful.

While Bank of America appeared unscathed by the apparent scam, past phony filings have had real world consequences. Last year, Avon shares soared 20 percent on a filing about a fake takeover bid. The alleged fraudster was arrested earlier this year.

The SEC's vulnerability to phony filings has attracted the attention of Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, who wrote to the regulator last year to express his concern.

The YNOFACE filing is so bizarre it is more likely a prank than a scam intended to generate profits, according to Jay Ritter, a finance professor at the University of Florida.

"Serious scamsters aren't so amateurish," he said. REUTERS

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Is Leonardo DiCaprio the best wingman ever?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

They say the best way to get over one lover is to find another one. But why do that when you can club it up with Leonardo DiCaprio instead? Newly single Tobey Maguire has reportedly been making good use of his hunky BFF since his separation from wife, Jennifer Meyer.

According to Page Six, Maguire and Meyer have been amicably separated for months and the dad of two has been spotted in the clubs with his famous bachelor pal Leo in Los Angeles clubs and on a private yacht in Ibiza, Spain. Not only is DiCaprio notorious for having a good time, but he's often romantically linked to beautiful women, like Rihanna. When it comes to wingmen, it apparently doesn't get much better than good ol' Leo.

the word

SESALI BOWEN
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Eminem goes after Donald Trump in new song

He's baaaaack! Controversial lyricist Eminem has returned to the music scene with the release of his track "Campaign Speech" and he isn't holding anything back — not that we expected him to. This eight-minute track – yes, you read that right – is proof that The Real Slim Shady has been keeping up with the times. He addressed everything from Trayvon Martin to Colin Kaepernick, and has some choice words about Donald Trump's bid for presidency.

"Consider me a dangerous man/ But you should be afraid of this dang candidate/ You say Trump don't kiss -ss like a puppet?/ 'Cause he runs his campaign with his own cash for the funding?/ And that's what you wanted?/ A f-ckin' loose cannon who's blunt with his hand on the button/ Who doesn't have to answer to no one?/ Great idea!"

Tyga gets sick when asked tough questions during lawyer interview

Kylie Jenner's boyfriend, Tyga, isn't so good with money. The rapper is known for not taking care of his debts. Most recently, a celebrity jeweler in Los Angeles by the name of Jason has hired a team of lawyers to collect $200,000 that Tyga never paid for a chain and a watch. Despite his financial woes, the 26-year-old has put himself in even hotter water by buying Kylie extravagant gifts, like a $200,000 Maybach.

Now lawyers are questioning both him and Kylie about his coin, trying to figure out if he has enough money to pay off Jason.

But things got weird during Tuesday's interview with the lawyers. Sources told TMZ that when Tyga was grilled about the gifts he bought Jenner, he claimed to be physically ill, and couldn't continue. It looks like "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" isn't for the faint of heart.

Amy Schumer reads 'apology' to Tampa audience Trump supporters

Amy Schumer had a controversial show in Tampa over the weekend. Over 200 disgruntled Trump supporters walked out after she took jabs at the candidate. Apparently Schumer regrets nothing. She addressed the incident at another live show in New York.

The comedienne penned an open letter to Tampa where she apologized for her actions: "Dearest Tampa, I'm sorry you didn't want me, a comedian who talks about what she believes in, to mention the biggest thing going on in our country right now. How could I think it was OK to spend five minutes having a peaceful conversation with someone with different views?" And promised next steps: "I will go straight to a rehab facility that will teach me how to make all people happy. Both the rich, entitled, white people who are gonna vote for him and the very poor people — who've been tricked into it!"

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Dakota Fanning doesn't overthink

The actress talks about playing someone who does a bad thing in "American Pastoral."

MATT PRIGGE
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Dakota Fanning is 22 and, yes, she's still playing high schoolers. But her role in "American Pastoral" is the kind only someone like Fanning could play: both naive and well beyond her years. Based on Philip Roth's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1997 novel, it casts her as Merry, a 16-year-old in 1968 who's gone from a well-behaved kid raised by loving, progressive parents (Ewan McGregor, who also directed, and Jennifer Connelly) to an anti-war activist. The story finds her going on the run after a bomb she planted in sleepy New Jersey accidentally kills someone. Fanning speaks to us about playing fiery for a change, not overthinking things and doing Merry's intense stutter.

"American Pastoral," which also stars Ewan McGregor, is in theaters Friday. RICHARD FOREMAN

This is the most abrasive you've been in a film.

I think so too, yeah. [Laughs] It was actually pretty freeing. On one hand it was difficult, because [Merry] jumps from one extreme to another: from quiet to loud, from not angry to super angry. To make those transitions feel natural and free and not fake and phony was kind of a challenge. She's somebody who thrives on making people feel uncomfortable. That can be kind of fun to do.

The novel is very descriptive, which could be helpful for playing someone as complex as Merry.

I read those descriptions, but I also like to stay with the script when I'm making a film. For me it's just about the inner life of the character. I let the script guide me in terms of facts, and then it's about the emotions that happen when you're there and when you're connecting with another actor. There's no way I can understand the character until you actually experience that.

GETTY IMAGES

Do you tend to concentrate on paring it down and not overthinking it?

That's really how you can sum me up. I try not to overthink about it at all.

Not overthinking it might be the best way to play Merry, who does something indefensible.

I didn't feel the need to relate to her or completely understand her. But I didn't want to judge her. I also didn't want to make her typical. I didn't want it to be the typical character who does something bad and then they repent and feel bad and admit they're wrong. That's not very Roth, and that's not very Merry. She's uncompromising and unapologetic.

Speaking parts

Tell me about the stutter you have to do.

Ewan and I talked about it and he sent me some videos. The main thing we talked about is we've seen Merry at a younger age, and we've seen the stutter as a source of pain for her and her parents. I kind of wanted to turn that on its head. When we see her at 16, she now gets this power from the stutter. She uses it as a weapon against her parents to purposefully make them uncomfortable. Usually we'd see something like that as an affliction or a source of pain. It interested me more as something Merry uses to her advantage.

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'Westworld' is your new great show

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

I get hooked on a lot of TV shows, but some like "Game of Thrones" get me immediately. That's what happened with HBO's "Westworld."

If you're not familiar with the show yet, and there have only been three episodes so far, it's based on the 1973 film by Michael Crichton of the same name. We're in the future and there is a theme park set in the old West populated by robots that look, sound and feel like humans. You can hurt them, shoot them and do all sorts of dastardly things to them, but they can't really hurt you — imagine getting into a "real" gun battle or visiting a lady of the evening in a saloon while swilling whiskey in a cowboy hat.

Now, imagine how that can go terribly wrong. And what if, all of a sudden, those robots start to remember each of the times something has gone terribly wrong with them, and the mind wipes after each scenario aren't really taking anymore?

It's a pretty chilling look at artificial intelligence, something our greatest intellectual minds have been warning us about. What makes us sentient? Is it being self-aware? Is it having feelings? Is it the ability to love or feel attachment, even if it's programmed? By that logic, the robots in "Star Wars" are sentient and therefore, as beings with owners, slaves. What if you couldn't tell if someone was a "host," as they call them on the show? It's a deeply compelling discussion to have, and in this setting, it makes for a gripping show.

If you read the column every week, you know my feelings on the representation of women. You know I've had major issues with the way sexual assault has been handled in "Game of Thrones" (not well) vs. "Jessica Jones" (very well). That was my biggest fear for this show. However, so far, sexual assault has been handled extremely well, if such a thing can be said. The most horrifyingly intimate moment of control so far on the show is done with a kiss, no more. I just wanted to point out when things are going right.

"Westworld," my Sunday nights are yours.

The androids in "Westworld" look human, which can be problematic. HBO

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Catfish and the Bottleman's 2014 debut "The Balcony" was certified Gold in the U.K. JILL FURMANOVSKY

Catfish and the Bottlemen don't want to pull any tricks

The Wales rockers take their sophomore album on tour.

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
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Catfish and the Bottlemen's sophomore album "The Ride" was built for the road.

"Everything we wrote was based around playing live so the way people would react, the way people would move to certain songs," explains frontman Van McCann. "We kind of sit in the practice room saying 'Can you feel this? Can you feel everybody's arms up to this?'"

What resulted is a record of toe-tapping melodies, explosive crescendos and big finishes. And lots of happy fans: "The Ride" is the first U.K. chart-topper for the Welsh rockers.

We spoke with McCann and lead guitarist Johnny "Bondy" Bond about developing in the British country and why staying "inside the box" was so important in mak-

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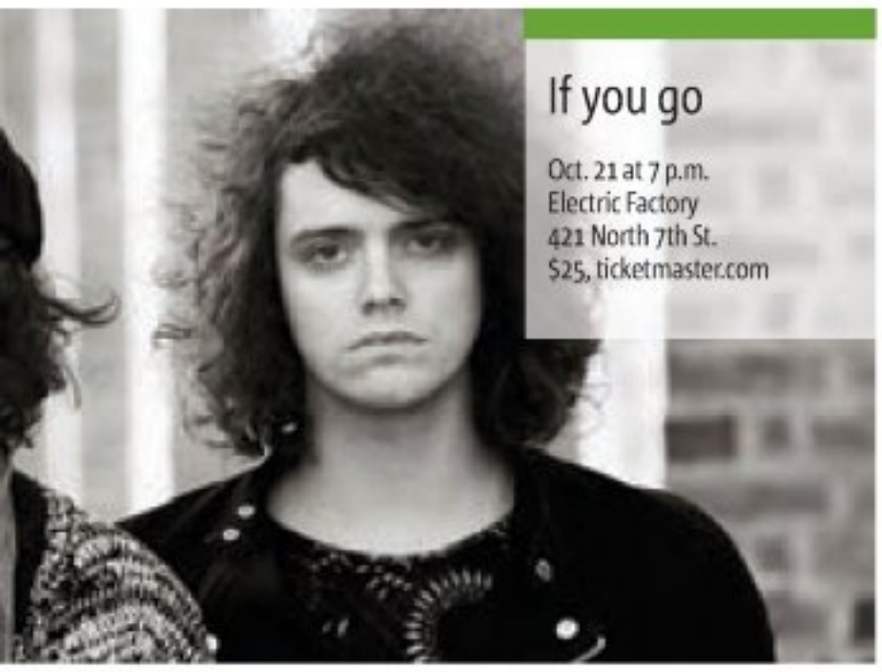

If you go

Oct. 21 at 7 p.m.
Electric Factory
421 North 7th St.
$25, ticketmaster.com

ing "The Ride."

While you guys began the band in Wales, were you mostly playing shows elsewhere?
McCann: Yes, because there wasn't too many venues that were within an hour of us. I think that disciplined us really, really early on touring, because we'd have to go out and kick down doors. We'd have to go and find our gigs — you know, drive to Scotland and then get all the way back the next day.

What were some of the overarching themes on "The Ride"?
McCann: I realized there's a lot of smoking. That was because I was always having a smoke writing. [For] the first album, all the people involved, all the stuff I was writing about, was within five minutes of me. The people around the corner from my house or the bars I was thinking of were a 10-minute walk from me.

Now, with the tours being so hectic, I think everything had a bit more distance to it. A lot of the sound grew wide. I think lyrically, it [was] a bit more wide-eyed.

You've said that you wanted to stay "inside the box" and focus on songwriting.
McCann: There was no tricks. It was very clear that it's me singing. It's Bondy playing guitar. It's Bob [Hall] drumming. It's Benji [Blakeway] on the bass. Everything we write, we just take it and play it live without needing a lot of tricks and a lot of things like that. Songwriting to me is if you could play it in the kitchen at the end of a night out and have the whole kitchen with your friends or family or whatever singing that song.

Bond: That remains true for the recording process, as well. Everything was done to be easily achievable live. There's no sort of mod effects coming in on the production side of it. It was all meant to be so it can be taken to another level when we play it live.

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things to do

Where to party this Halloween in Philly

You might be too old to go trick-or-treating, but there's plenty of Halloween fun in Philly that is strictly for adults. It's the only time of year where rocking zombie chic is socially acceptable outside of a comic convention, people. So get dressed to excess and fill up your social calendar with these spooky soirees. Drinking cobwebbed cocktails is so much better than subpar Halloween candy, anyway.

JENNIFER LOGUE

ISTOCK

Mischief at the Mutter

The Mutter Museum
19 S. 22nd St.
Thursday, Oct. 27
6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., $40+
muttermuseum.org
For the second year in a row, this museum of medical oddities is embracing the spirit of Halloween with an unforgettable costume party. It might be too scary for some—many of the skeletons and "wet specimens" are the real deal.

Morgan Pier's Annual Halloween Bash

221 N. Columbus Blvd.
Saturday, Oct. 29
9 p.m. to 2 a.m., $40
morganspier.com
Morgan Pier will close out the 2016 season with its annual Halloween Bash. Featuring an open bar, there will even be a costume contest — in case you needed extra incentive to go all out.

The 11th Annual PEX Halloween Ball

Battleship New Jersey
62 Battleship Pl., Camden
Saturday, Oct. 29
10 p.m. to 4 a.m., $50
thephiladelphiaexperiment.org
America's most decorated battleship makes for one heck of a Halloween party location. For the 11th year in a row, The Philadelphia Experiment will welcome 2,000 people to the ship for a spectacular night of revelry.
TJ Kong Halloween Costume Ball Rock N Roll Murdershow

Underground Arts

1200 Callowhill St.
Saturday, Oct. 29
8 p.m., $15
undergroundarts.org
For the seventh year in a row, Philly band TJ Kong & the Atomic Bomb will host their much-loved Halloween event at Underground Arts. Featuring some of the best live music from the region, this party is also budget-friendly at only $15.

Ben FM's The B52's Halloween Scream

The Fillmore
1000 Frankford Ave.
Sunday, Oct. 30
6 p.m. to 11 p.m., $50
thefillmorephilly.com
For slightly older music lovers with less of a foothold in the local scene, radio station Ben FM is hosting a Halloween event at The Fillmore with the legendary B52's. Given it's a Sunday night, the party starts a little earlier so you're fresh for work Monday.

EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

Kristol Bryant

Kristol Bryant of Sonesta ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Chef Kristol Bryant may not have been born in Philadelphia, but she's been here long enough to be considered a native. Originally from Edison, New Jersey, Bryant moved with her family to Philadelphia in 1983. She began her culinary career in 1999 after being accepted into the Opportunities Inn Program, a nonprofit that helps people get better jobs through education. She stayed local, sharpening her cooking skills at restaurants like Phillipe and XIX at the Bellevue. Today, she serves as the executive chef at the Sonesta Hotel. Bryant gives us the scoop on where to get the best fish tacos and, believe it or not, bone marrow.

Best meal under $10?

Four Seasons Diner (2811 Cottman Ave.) in the Northeast has the best cream chipped beef over biscuits I've ever had. It's only been there for the last five years but the warmth and friendliness of the staff makes it seem like it was a part of the neighborhood from the beginning.

Best hidden foodie gem?

Marrakesh (517 S. Leithgow St.) is as authenticate as you can get with their Moroccan cuisine. Everything is family style and the ambiance and decor truly takes you to another place. Now they offer utensils but you can just share and eat amongst your friend with your hands, and the baklava is just as it supposed to be with sweet honey, crispy layers of phyllo and nuts.

Best place to dine alone?

My best place to dine alone is El Vez (121 S. 13th St.). The people are always so friendly and even when you are by yourself it feels like you're amongst friends. It is very hard for me to pass up on the fish tacos and margaritas.

One of Bryant's signature dishes at the Sonesta is the pork belly.

Place you always take or recommend for out-of-towners?

Pennsylvania 6 (114 S. 12th St.) is one of my favorite restaurants. The chef there is always coming up with new and inventive dishes, like the bone marrow, which he serves with grilled breads. After you finish eating all your marrow, you use the bone to take a shot of whiskey with it.

Go-to date spot, hands down?

Buddakan (325 Chestnut St.) has a great ambiance — the service is impeccable and the food speaks for itself. I cannot say enough good things about the tempura king crab with the sweet and sour sauce and the bento box of desserts.

Best place to catch up with friends?

The views from XIX (200 S. Broad St.) are incredible — especially in the spring and summer when their balconies are open. It is a great place to hang out and catch up with friends. I love their jumbo lump crabcakes with tomato pepper jam.

Most Instagrammable restaurant?

Blackfish (119 Fayette St.) in Conshohocken. This BYOB restaurant has some of the most amazing dishes you will ever eat or see. The menu changes daily but I have never been disappointed by their crudo. It is like art on a plate.

JENNIFER LOGUE

HOT PLATE

Roman Benedict at Bufad

Pizza and eggs Benedict rolled into one. JENNIFER LOGUE

Jennifer Logue eats her way through Philly
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Bufad on Spring Garden Street is mainly known for their wood-fired pizza, but recently they've expanded their menu to include brunch as well. Located on the northern stretch of 13th Street, the restaurant is off the beaten path for Center City folks but well worth the hike for a new brunch experience.

The menu infuses Italian favorites and comfort food seamlessly — with their Cannoli French Toast, for example.

But being the eggs Benedict connoisseur that I am, I had to try the Roman Benedict, which throws Roman pizza into the mix.

Chef Lauren Whiteman says of the dish: "Each brunch place needs a Benedict. The Roman pizza is a good base instead of an English muffin. It holds up."

Presented with a side of arugula lightly drizzled with olive oil, the Roman Benedict is savory and decadent. The chewy pizza base is topped with thin slices of potato and hearty portions of prosciutto cotto, which is baked with rosemary and herbs. The perfectly poached eggs complete the dish, drizzled with a velvety truffle hollandaise.

Replacing the English muffin with pizza adds a refreshing spin on the eggs Benedict experience. It soaks up the egg well and allows for more toppings to be added underneath the poached eggs. Consequently, the Roman Benedict is more filling and you may find yourself unable to finish both poached eggs — especially if you want to save room for dessert.

For those who bring adult beverages, (this is a BYOB establishment), a little alcohol may help you let your guard down and finish your plate in one sitting. For the nondrinkers, I recommend the San Pellegrino Blood Orange.

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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

MOVIES

Philadelphia Film Festival

It's a milestone year for the Philadelphia Film Festival, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year with dozens upon dozens of films from around the world. This weekend sees the opening of flicks like insects-as-food documentary "Bugs," comedy "Another Evil" and the much-anticipated "Jackie," which stars Natalie Portman as First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy following her husband's assassination. For the full list of films and concurring events, visit filmadelphia.org.
Through Oct. 30
Various locations and times
$8-$13
filmadelphia.org

Halloween Movies at the Piazza

All October long, the Piazza at Schmidt's screens a Halloween film every Thursday night on the Jumbotron. Feel free to tote along the kids; these films aren't going to cause nightmares. This week they screen Tim Burton's eery and lovely "The Corpse Bride." The stop-animation flick concerns a young man who accidentally woos a dead woman when he practices his wedding vows over her grave.
Oct. 20, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
The Piazza at Schmidt's Commons
1001 N. Second St.
Free
theschmidtscommons.com

MUSIC

LiveConnections

LiveConnections, a concert series focusing on unique musical collaborations, brings together harpist Bridget Kibbey, clarinetist Benito Meza and percussionist Samuel Torres for an evening of tunes written by composers who immigrated to the States from South America. The Latin-infused classical music will be punctuated with videos showcasing the songwriters' stories.
Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Upstairs at World Café Live
3025 Walnut St.
$13-$18
liveconnections.org

MC Chris

Just in time for Halloween, the "undisputed King of Nerd Rap" is back on the scene with a new album inspired by '80s nightmare stalker Freddy Kruger. He stops in Philly on his national tour this week, bringing new tracks like "Freddy's Dead" and "Sad Sack." The Illinois native has been on the road for more than 10 years now, but you may also recognize his voiceover work on Adult Swim shows like "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" and "Sealab 2021."
Oct. 22, 8:30 p.m.
MilkBoy Philly
1100 Chestnut St.

MUSIC

Sia

Weirdo pop princess Sia brings her "Nostalgic for the Present" tour to the Wells Fargo Center with opening acts Miguel and AlunaGeorge. This is the five-time Grammy nominee's first arena tour, though her tunes have been vibrating stadiums for three decades. When she's not singing her own songs, like mega hit "Chandelier," she's penning anthems for other artists. She's responsible for "Pretty Hurts" by Beyoncé, "Diamonds" by Rihanna and much, much more.
Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Wells Fargo Center
3601 S. Broad St.
$35-$149.50
wellsfargocenterphilly.com

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FESTIVALS

Harry Potter Festival

Grab a broomstick and brush up on your bibbity-bobbity-boos. The massive Harry Potter Festival swooshes back into Chestnut Hill with 10 full blocks of entertainment inspired by J.K. Rowling's ever-popular book and movie series. The activities are endless, from the annual Quidditch Tournament and a Harry Potter art gallery to a Defense Against the Dark Arts class. Oct. 22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Germantown Avenue from Rex Avenue to Mermaid Lane
Free
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PERFORMING ARTS

Get Pegged

This excellent late-night cabaret series led by Bearded Ladies Cabaret founder John Jarboe starts up again after a summer hiatus. The show features a bevy of avant-garde, queer-identified artists from across the globe. For this first go-round, Jarboe welcomes Seattle drag queen and performance artist Cherdonna Shinatra, dance and percussion duo stb x at and local crooner Chris Davis, who you may have seen in the 2016 Fringe Festival hit "One Man Apocalypse Now."
Oct. 21, 10:30 p.m.-1 a.m.
FringeArts
140 N. Columbus Blvd.
$5-$60
fringearts.com

"A New Brain"

Theatre Horizon stages this autobiographical musical by Tony winners William Finn and James Lapine. The story follows the emotional journey of a children's television songwriter (Barrymore winner Steve Pacek) who is forced to reexamine his life and legacy after being diagnosed with a fatal brain disease. There are two post-show discussions Oct. 21 and 23.
Through Nov. 6
Theatre Horizon
401 DeKalb St.
$40-$45
theatrehorizon.org

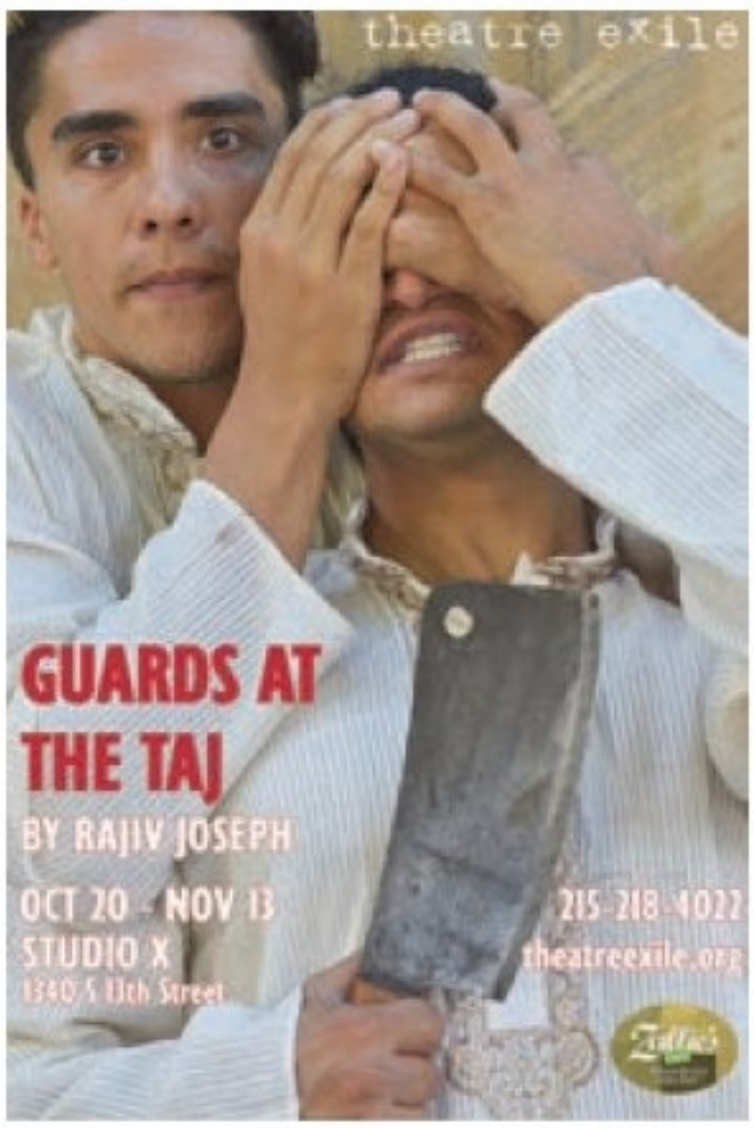
"Radiant Vermin"

Inis Nua kicks off its 2016/17 season with a Brothers Grimm-like tale that, despite its name, doesn't concern a pair of glowing rats. Instead, it follows a couple whose morals are called into question after they receive a free house through a "government program." The fantasy tale that plays out is a reminder about the repercussions of getting what we ask for.
Oct. 21-Nov. 6
Louis Bluver Theater at The Drake
302 S. Hicks St.
$25-$35
inisnuatheatre.org

IN MEMORIAM

Veterans' Name Reading

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 266 hosts presents its annual candlelight reading of the names of 648 Philadelphians who lost their lives in the line of duty during the Vietnam War. It's a tasteful, poignant chance to show respect to locals who made the ultimate sacrifice.
Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Spruce and Front streets
Free JOSH MIDDLETON



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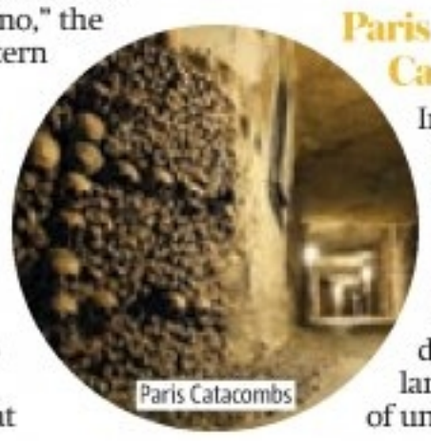
Basilica Cistern

One of the pivotal settings in Dan Brown's book "Inferno," the Basilica Cistern in Istanbul is an awe-inspiring historical sight. Built in A.D. 532, the cistern was used to store water for the Great Palace of Constantinople and other buildings. The cistern, located near the Hagia Sophia mosque, now only has several feet of water and is supported by 336 eerily lit marble columns that create a majestic scene as you walk along the raised wooden platforms and see fish swimming through the shadowy water.


Paris Catacombs

Paris Catacombs

In the late 18th century, Paris had a dire public health problem due to a large number of unburied corpses. Parisians sought the solution underground in quarries, and six million skeletons were exhumed and arranged in the catacombs, which are as deep as a five-story building, and include artistic arrangements of skulls and bones — don't miss the giant urns made of skeletal remains. Although much of the 200-mile network is closed to the public, the 45-minute tour is a great peek.

Wieliczka Salt Mine ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Wieliczka Salt Mine

One of the world's oldest operational salt mines, Wieliczka near Krakow, Poland, is more than 700 years old. This UNESCO World Heritage Site features dozens of beautiful sculptures, 20 chambers, three chapels and an entire cathedral carved into the rock salt. Visitors should be ready for a workout as you will descend 800 steps into the mine (don't worry, there's an elevator to take you up). Enjoy listening to Chopin and watching a light show on a saline lake, or admire the incredible Chapel of St. Kinga. Adventurous guests can choose the Miner's Route tour and act the part of a real miner. The mine is also renowned for its health benefits and features a health resort that offers subterranotherapy to treat respiratory illnesses and balance the body.

Moose Jaw

In the early 20th century, illegal Chinese immigrants created tunnels and living spaces underneath the residences and businesses of documented Chinese immigrants in of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, to avoid persecution and deportation. Then during Prohibition, Chicago bootleggers like Al Capone stashed and transported their goods through them. Visitors can choose between the Passage to Fortune tour which tells the story of the Chinese immigrants, or the Chicago Connection tour in which you play the high-suspense part of a bootlegger. Period costumes and decorations make these tours a must-do.

Capuchin Crypt

For one of the eeriest sights in the world, visit Rome's Capuchin Crypt. Beneath the church of Santa Maria, you'll find the skeletal remains of 3,700 Capuchin friars. In 1631, when the monks moved to the church, they brought cartloads of deceased friars to be arranged in the burial crypt. Over the course of years, long-dead friars were exhumed to make room for recently deceased friars' burials, their bones then placed into the crypts' elaborate designs — gaze upon artwork in human bone frames and skull chandeliers.

Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa

To view the unique integration of ancient Egyptian art and Greco-Roman styles, visit Alexandria's Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, which was built in the second century for a single wealthy Egyptian family and was the last major construction for the old Egyptian religion. Travel down the circular staircase along the wall and imagine the bodies they used to lower down the middle. Within the catacombs you can see sculptures that display the stiff poses of Ancient Egypt but with the carved head style of Greece and ancient Roman hairstyles.

Edinburgh Vaults

Hidden beneath Edinburgh's South Bridge are over 120 rooms that were used as secret living places for the Scottish city's poor. The vaults were originally meant as a storage space for local businesses, however they flooded, conditions deteriorated and Edinburgh's slum dwellers became the new inhabitants. The passages and vaults also gained a reputation as a renowned red light district until they were closed in the late 19th century. Since their rediscovery in 1988, visitors have reported ghostly sightings.

The Cu Chi Tunnels

During the Vietnam War, the communist guerilla Viet Cong expanded tunnels created during an earlier war against the French, using them to house troops, transport supplies and lay traps. The residents of Cu Chi slept, ate, wed and even gave birth in these underground abodes to avoid detection. While getting to the tunnels is a bit of a trek (expect a 2.5-hour bus ride from Ho Chi Minh City), the tour and tunnels are an amazing sight.

Louisville Mega Cavern

For the largest building in Kentucky, visit the Louisville Mega Cavern, which spans over 100 acres and has over 17 miles of underground passages. Opened in the 1930s as a limestone mine, the Mega Cavern now offers the world's only fully underground zipline and a challenging 76 element rope course. Nothing will make your hair stand on end quite like jumping off into utter blackness. Guides' creepy stories of the ghost of a Native American girl who haunts the cavern add to the thrills and chills. After Halloween, get into the holiday spirit beginning Nov. 20 with Lights Under Louisville, featuring over two million lights.

Berlin Bunkers

Hidden behind subway station doors in Berlin, one can find traces of the city's tumultuous past, including hidden cemeteries, air raid shelters, bunkers and even an aircraft factory — all underground. In 1940, after heavy air raids, about 1,000 bunkers and shelters were built. Today tourists can see artifacts, walk through twisting passages and see a bunker once used by the Third Reich. Or tour the spaces renovated during the Cold War to protect citizens in case of nuclear attacks.

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Why Noel's days with 76ers are probably already numbered

The promising defensive big man could be on his way out in Philly.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Nerlens Noel is being overshadowed. And rightly or wrongly, the big man has a lot to give to an NBA team utilizing him correctly. It just doesn't seem to be the team he's currently on.

The center was a part of the 13th best defense his rookie year in Philadelphia, but after Brett Brown and company tried to make him into a power forward who could play along Jahlil Okafor (the third overall pick in 2015), the defense slid to 25th in the NBA.

He averaged 11.1 points and 8.5 rebounds per game last season and is a lockdown defender who can score occasionally from inside the post. He thrived with Ish Smith at point guard, hurling lobs his way left and right. But now, times are changing.

With Noel sitting this preseason with a groin strain, Brown has experimented with Joel Embiid — clearly the star of the team going forward (at least until he can be joined by Ben Simmons) — and Okafor on the same floor on offense.

> *"I don't see a way of it working."*
>
> Nerlens Noel, back in September commenting on the Sixers' longjam at center.

And surprisingly, it could work.

"Us playing together, I've always thought if you want to put the best defender on him, that leaves me open," Embiid said of Okafor earlier this week. "And if you put your small defender on me, that will leave him open. So we complement each other pretty well. It's just a matter of [defense]. But offensively, I think it's easy."

The Sixers also have yet to negotiate a contract extension for Noel, who becomes a restricted free agent after this season.

"It's not really something that we've discussed given some of the concerns that I think Nerlens has had right now," Bryan Colangelo, president of basketball operations said. "There's been very little, if any, discussion with his agents about any extension scenarios."

Noel himself sees the writing on the wall. When the Sixers opened their training camp, the 22-year-old said he didn't see it working, a team that contains himself, Embiid and Okafor.

Nerlens Noel, rightly or wrongly, seems to be getting shoved out. GETTY IMAGES

Philly will likely be looking to move Noel prior to the February NBA trade deadline. They can only hope they're able to get him on the floor enough to showcase his skills before he finds a new home — one that takes advantage of his strengths and minimizes his weaknesses.

Pederson says Bradford trade is 'win-win' for both Eagles, Vikings

Sunday's 1 p.m. matchup between the Eagles and Vikings isn't a referendum on Philadelphia's decision to trade Sam Bradford to Minnesota for a first-round pick in September. The entire season is.

But that won't stop the storylines from straying to this fascinating undertone — Bradford knows the Eagles' defense better than anyone else. And the Eagles' defense knows Bradford better than anyone else.

"I think they know the type of athlete that Sam is, the type of quarterback that he is," Doug Pederson said of his defensive unit. "It's hard to get to a guy like Sam — as I mentioned — because he gets the ball out of his hands so fast. And he utilizes the quick game and it's tough to defend sometimes from a pass-rush standpoint."

The Eagles opened up an opportunity for Carson Wentz to play right away while also getting themselves back into the first round (though Minnesota's pick is likely to be somewhere in the late 20s).

Who got the better end of the September blockbuster? GETTY IMAGES

The Vikings got a stopgap — and a pretty good one at that — to help lead a team with a stellar defense in a march toward a Super Bowl berth.

Bradford is playing better than any other QB in football. So who won the trade so far?

"I think it's been a win-win, honestly," the coach said. "In our case, our first-round, second-overall pick getting a chance to play this early; getting his feet wet, learning, putting us in a great spot, a 3-2 [record]. He's played a lot of football. He's getting better every week. And from their standpoint, they got a good quarterback. He went to a playoff caliber football team [at 5-0] with a tremendous defense.

"You know, it was a win-win for both sides."

EVAN MACY

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BILL DUBIEL

OPINION

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert for Rotoballer.com.

The Colts' Jack Doyle is a smart pick-up at tight end. GETTY IMAGES

Now is the time to make an impact on the waiver wire. Snagging players now can make your season down the road. Be sure to check out Rotoballer.com's Fantasy Football Waiver Wire Tool for up-to-the-hour waiver wire advice and ideas, and to follow me @Roto_Dubs for quick-hitting news and analysis.

Keenum and Kenny primed for Giant fantasy day

While many would laugh at the idea, there is actually some fantasy value to be found in the Los Angeles Rams passing game. Veteran wide receiver Kenny Britt has been downright usable in all formats in almost every game this season. He has at least four catches in every game this season, is on pace for over 1,300 receiving yards, and is coming off a huge two-touchdown game in which his quarterback (Case Keenum) looked terrific. Britt is now an every-week WR3 and can be rostered in all formats for depth.

Get Jacked up for Doyle in Week 7

Indianapolis Colts tight end Jack Doyle should be in for a huge week with fellow tight end Dwayne Allen likely out with an ankle injury. Allen left early in the Colts' Week 6 matchup, leaving Doyle as the primary tight end, and he didn't disappoint—he posted 53 yards and a touchdown on four catches. While he's been hit-or-miss in 2016, with Allen out there is a ton of upside for Doyle, as he should be an integral part of the Indianapolis attack against Tennessee.

Robinson stranded in lackluster Jacksonville offense

While Allen Robinson is, without a doubt, one of the best deep-ball receivers in the NFL, his lack of volume in 2016 has many fantasy owners worried. He hasn't yet posted a game with more than 72 receiving yards, and has had no more than seven catches in any single game. Robinson has found the end zone thrice, but when he hasn't scored a touchdown he's been a severely disappointing fantasy asset. It's fair to blame the dynamic wide out's woes on Jacksonville quarterback Blake Bortles, who has struggled in the early goings with nine turnovers in just five games.

NFL sleepers of the week

Each week we will identify three players worth taking a shot on in deeper leagues.

Bilal Powell, RB, New York Jets – It's been trending that way for weeks, and now it finally happened — Bilal Powell actually outsnapped Matt Forte on Monday night. This is a full-on timeshare, and it looks like Powell is the back to own in fantasy.

Jamison Crowder, WR, Washington Redskins – Crowder now has a touchdown in four of the Redskins' six games, and he should continue to produce as a flex option as long as Jordan Reed is sidelined.

Charles Clay, TE, Buffalo Bills – Clay has five catches in each of the Bills' last three games, and while he hasn't found the end zone he has a very good chance in a tilt against his former team, the Dolphins, in Week 7.

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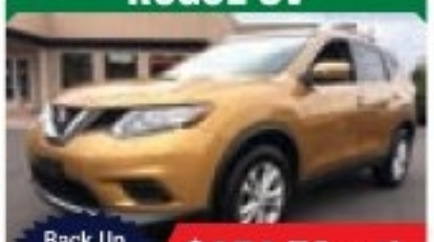
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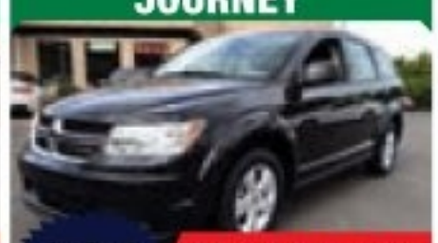
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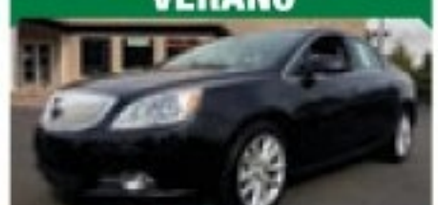
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What we learned from the Flyers' season-opening West Coast trip

Philly is 1-1-1 — not great, but also not terrible.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
@EricEsponda
sports@metro.us

The Flyers got some great, and some terrible goaltending during their three-game road trip. GETTY IMAGES

Well, so much for ending the season-opening road trip on a high note.

The Flyers got off to a great start with a 4-2 win over the Kings in the first game of the year on Friday, but they head into Thursday's home opener against the Ducks on a two-game slide, which includes an overtime loss against the Coyotes.

Although picking up three out of a possible six points while beginning the year in L.A, Phoenix and Chicago isn't a disaster, it is also far from being labeled as satisfying – especially for a club that is trying to avoid its fourth straight slow start to the year.

Instead of using the crisp victory against the Kings as momentum, the Flyers needed a last-gasp push to overcome a two-goal deficit before falling in the extra session against an underwhelming Coyotes squad.

Then, it went from bad to worse as the Flyers fell behind 4-0, then amazingly rallied to tie the game only to end up losing, 7-4, to the Blackhawks.

While they will definitely welcome the friendly confines of the Wells Fargo Center, where the Flyers get to play five of their next six games, let's first take a look at some of the storylines and themes from the recent road trip.

Flat first periods

The Flyers have yet to score a goal and have been outscored, 5-1, in the first 20 minutes. Unfortunately, this was the same pattern for most of the last couple of years. As evidenced from the loss in Chicago, which took a 3-0 lead into the first intermission, it's a taxing way to play and obviously not a recipe for success. It's essential that the Flyers reverse course during the upcoming home stand.

The kids are alright

Despite the small sample size, the Flyers pair of 19-year-old rookies, winger Travis Konecny and defenseman Ivan Provorov, have proven they belong in the NHL. Konecny has flashed his playmaking skills with four assists, which leads all rookies, while playing on the second line with Sean Couturier and Jake Voracek. Provorov, meanwhile, had a rough game against the Blackhawks but registered an assist and was a plus-1 through the first two games.

A good Read

Forward Matt Read entered training camp as a possible candidate to be sent down to the Lehigh Valley Phantoms. However, the 30-year-old winger had an excellent preseason and it has certainly carried over to the regular season. He had the game-tying goal to force OT in Arizona and tallied a pair during the rally in Chicago. It was his first two-goal game since March 15, 2014. So far, he has looked like the Matt Read of 2011-2012 through 2013-2014, when he combined to score 73 goals.

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City of Philadelphia Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee on Commerce & Economic Development** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016**, at **1:00 PM**, in **Room 400, City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following item:

160310 Resolution authorizing the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to conduct hearings to examine the inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency of the City of Philadelphia's processes for the procurement of professional services, capital programs and commodities.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Commerce & Economic Development, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item.

Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

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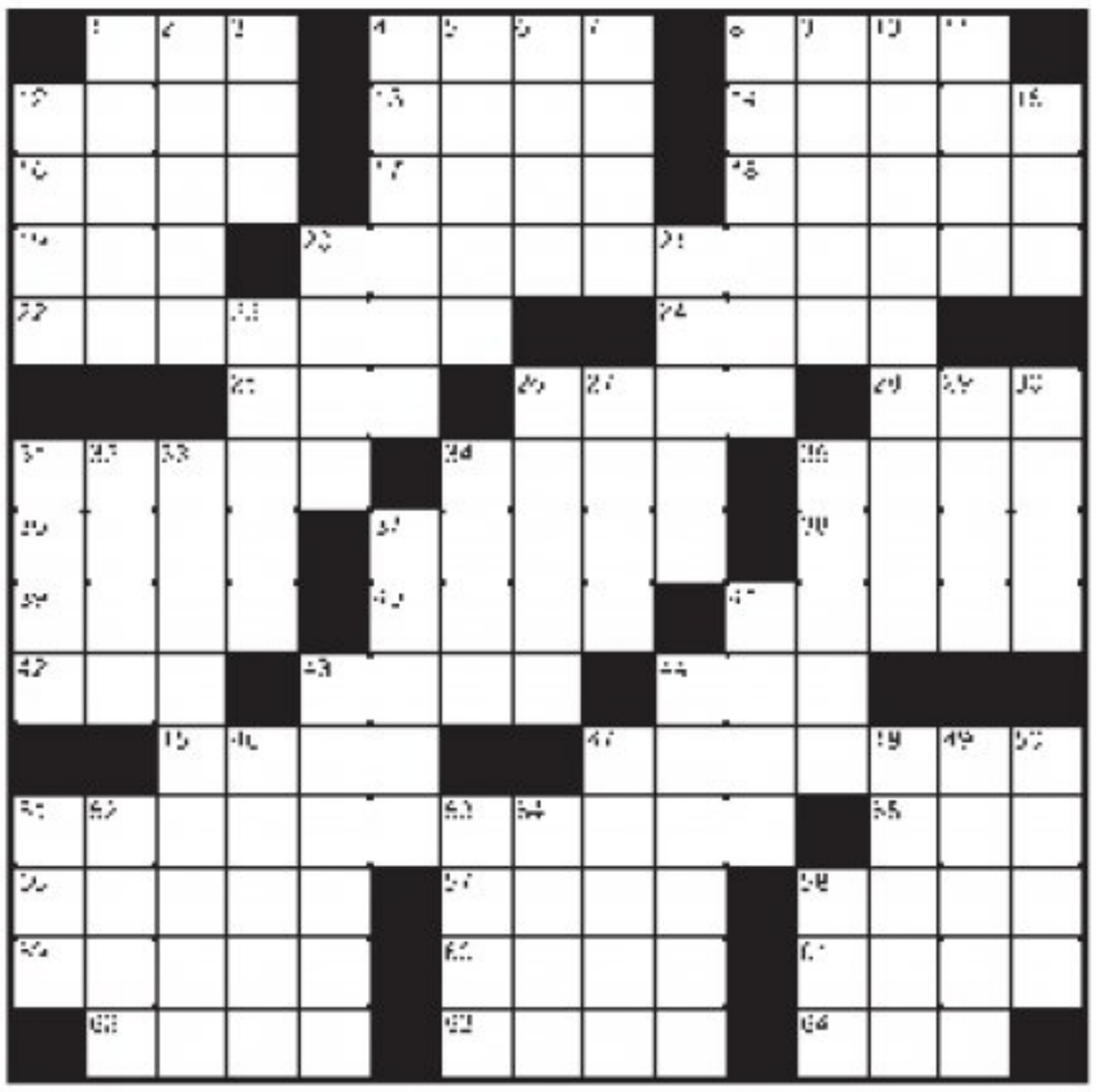
Across
1 Jolt
4 Zoo transport
8 Yacht feature
12 Marquis or earl
13 Hole up
14 Unfinished room
16 Yeah, right! (2 wds.)
17 Speckled horse
18 Freshen a pillow
19 Large gathering
20 pH clue (2 wds.)
22 Fauna
24 -- -majeste
25 It has its point
26 Parroted
28 Team supporter
31 Cubicle fillers
34 Spring
35 Hunch
36 Mouthy Martha --
37 Charred
38 Exigency
39 Coffee dispensers
40 Abel or Ducommun
41 Twig-and-mud homes
42 Student stat
43 Legend
44 Marsupial pocket
45 Oprah's middle name
47 Carnival pitchmen
51 One meaning of ounce (2 wds.)
55 Chatter
56 "Rumba King" Xavier
57 "The Banana Boat Song" (hyph.)
58 Position
59 Become acclimated
60 Singer Celine --
61 Sooner city
62 Kernel
63 Funny money
64 Back when

Down
1 He jilted Medea
2 Excuse
3 Lib. section
4 Electrify
5 Brawls
6 Comic Sandler
7 Pull-down item
8 Charted
9 Book of maps
10 Confounds
11 Measure speed
12 Wee one's wail
15 EMT technique
20 Statutes
21 Zonked out
23 Invents
26 Falcon's home
27 Window part
29 Aid and --
30 Beatty and Buntline
31 Germ killer
32 Tombstone deputy
33 Rabbi's place
34 Temporary slowdown
35 Sweater style (hyph.)
37 Blues street in Memphis
41 Ancient ointment
43 Jousted
44 Island attire
46 Tuned in
47 Marshy area
48 Inspecting
49 Math figure
50 Raced
51 Biol. or astron.
52 Cell habitants
53 Bookie's figures
54 Water holder
58 Jellyfish abode



metro.us/sudoku

easy

			5			3	7	1
	7						4	
	3	4						6
2			4	6	3		5	
	9			2			8	
	1		7	8	9			2
1						9	2	
	4						3	
9	5	2			4			

hard

1	9						2	
	5		3		8			
6			4		9	5		
5	3		6					8
			9	5	3			
4					1		6	5
		6	1		2			9
			8		6		3	
	1						8	6

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries A change will result in good fortune and new opportunities. Discuss your thoughts and plans with a loved one in order to come up with a good solution.

Taurus A clear mind will lead to good choices. Don't let others' actions faze you. If you follow your instincts, you will enjoy the benefits of a winning situation.

Gemini Don't question what you need to do; just do it. It's important to put the past behind you so that you can move forward without hesitation, worry or regret.

Cancer Emotions will flare up, and restraint and discipline will be required. Find unorthodox solutions instead of getting angry and making matters worse.

Leo Business or pleasure trips will give you greater insight into ways you can exploit your skills, knowledge and expertise. Mix business with pleasure in order to advance.

Virgo Put everything you've got into doing the best job possible. Don't let an emotional incident make you less productive or cause damage to your reputation.

Libra Express your thoughts and react graciously to constructive criticism. Don't feel the need to do what others say, but do consider incorporating some suggestions.

Scorpio You've got everything going for you, so don't falter now. Your actions should be calculated and precise, but not pretentious. Doing what you want will lead to success.

Sagittarius Stay neutral, no matter what happens. The less you divulge about your particular views, the easier it will be to keep the peace and manipulate the situation.

Capricorn Ulterior motives, emotional manipulation and poor information will surface if you don't take a timeout to digest what's transpiring. Nothing is as bad as it seems.

Aquarius Making travel plans or reuniting with old friends will lift your spirits. Self-improvement projects will make you feel good about your appearance and potential.

Pisces Look for an opportunity to get ahead. Good fortune is within reach if you don't get sucked into other people's dilemmas. Protect against insult or injury. EUGENIA LAST

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